

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 19 are in the application; claims 20 and 21 are cancelled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Whetstone* (US 4,025,379).

Claim 15 has been rewritten as a dependent claim of claim 1 and should thus be allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Whetstone* (US 4,025,379) in view of *Stark* (US 5,563,463).

Claim 16 now depends from claim 1, via claim 15, so that the above rejection no longer applies.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Whetstone* (US 4,025,379).

Claim 17 has been amended to include the features of claims 20 and 21 so that the above rejection no longer applies.

Claims 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Whetstone* (US 4,025,379) in view of *Stark* (US 5,563,463).

Claims 18 and 19 depend from amended claim 17 so that the above rejection no longer applies.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1 through 14 are allowed.

Claim 15 has been rewritten to depend from claim 1 and should thus be allowable, together with claim 16, as a dependent claim of claim 1.

Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 has been amended to include the features of claim 20 and allowable claim 21 and should thus be allowable together with its dependent claims 18 and 19.

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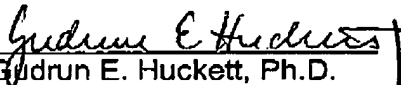
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on August 22, 2003.


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